GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Exports from the Country
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken measures to augment the export from the country;
(b) if so, whether the export sector has been benefited from these measures;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether Indian goods are comparatively expensive in the international market; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to deal with this situation?

Answer

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) The following are some of the measures Government has taken recently to promote exports :

(i) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced i n the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015.MEIS aims to incentivize export of merchandise which are produced/manufactured in India. At the time of introduction of MEIS on April 1, 2015, the scheme covered 4914 tariff lines at 8 digit level. Countries of the globe were grouped into 3 market categories (Country Group A, Country Group B & Country Group C) for grant of incentives under MEIS. Slight changes in lines covered etc. were made on 14.07.2015 and 15.7.2015. Thereafter on 29.10.2015, 110 new Tariff Lines at 8 digit level were added under the scheme. The rates/country coverage for 2228 lines at 8 digit level were enhanced. As on date, 5012 Tariff Lines at 8 digit level are eligible for rewards under MEIS. The annual resource allocation under MEIS was enhanced from Rs. 18000 crore to Rs. 21000 crore in October 2015.

(ii) The Government has introduced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre & Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit with effect from 1.4.2015. The scheme is available to all exports under 416 tariff lines [at ITC (HS) code of 4 digit] and exports made by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across all ITC (HS) codes. The rate of interest equalisation is 3% per annum.

(iii) In addition the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback/refund of duties.

(b) & (c) While India's exports during April 2015 − February 2016 over the April 2014 − February 2015 declined by 16.7%, the decline for the products covered under MEIS for the same period was only 8.95%.

(d) & (e) International Trade is governed on the basis of various factors including demand and supply, global economic situation and competitive pricing. The government takes steps to improve the competitiveness of Indian goods through steps like improvement in infrastructure and ease of doing business.
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